

Meeting Minutes

11/15/2011 5:00 p.m.

JEFFREY BUILDING
16 Francis Street, 4th Floor, Annapolis, Maryland

Commission Name	Governor's Commission on Hispanic Affairs
Name of Commission Chair	Chair Yolanda Maria Welch
Commission Administrator/ Staff Present	Jessy Mejia, Administrator Agnes M. Smith, Administrative Assistant
Guest Speakers	Secretary Richard Hall, Maryland Department of Planning Secretary Jeanne Hitchcock, Governor's Redistricting Advisory Committee Michelle Davis, Legislative Services
List of Attendees	Vice Chair Ricardo Martinez, Lydia Espinosa Crafton, Christina M. Diaz-Malone, Elizabeth Ysla Leight, Hector G. Manzano
Absent	Chair Yolanda Maria Welch, Elizabeth C. Bellavance, Javier G. Bustamante, Richard V. Cook, Mariana Cordier, Ricardo Alberto Flores, Colonel Roberto L. Hylton, Maria T. Pinto Johnson, Carmen Ortiz Larsen, Sonia E. Mora, Arelis A. Pérez, Nicolas H. Ramos, Lea Ybarra

The Meeting was called by Vice Chair Ricardo Martinez who thanked the Commissioners and distinguished guest. Grateful to have the majority of key players who will be working on the redistricting process that will begin in October of this year. Introductions of Commissioners.

Topics

REDISTRICTING OVERVIEW

SECRETARY JEANNE HITCHCOCK,
GOVERNOR'S REDISTRICTING
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Summary Of Discussion	Secretary Jeanne Hitchcock spoke on the process of redistricting. The Governor has a Governor's Redistricting Advisory Committee because it is the governor's responsibility to submit plans to the General Assembly for both congressional redistricting and legislative redistricting every ten years after the Census is taken. The Governor's Redistricting Advisory Committee consists of five members. They have scheduled twelve hearings in which eight have been completed and two postponed because of Hurricane Irene. The Governor will call a special session meeting in October for the Congressional plan. The Legislative plan must be submitted on the 1 st day of the General Assembly in January.		
Conclusions			
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline	

DEMOGRAPHIC OVERVIEW

SECRETARY RICHARD HALL, MARYLAND
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

Summary Of Discussion	Secretary Richard Hall noted that the Department of Planning is the State Data Center and the main State agency that deal with the Census Bureau. Key highlights: the State grew by 477,000 people from 2000-2010 with 51% Hispanic. Maryland is neither gaining nor losing congressional representation. Some of the key people working together on redistricting: Governor's Redistricting Advisory Committee (GRAC), Governor's office, Maryland Department of Planning (Technical),
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	<p>Maryland Department of legislative Services (Technical Support), Office of the Attorney General Redistricting Team, State and Local Boards of Elections. Some of the key tasks associated with the GRAC: adopt third party plan guidelines, adopt public hearing guidelines, hold regional public hearings throughout State for Congressional and Legislative redistricting and develop draft Congressional and legislative redistricting plans. He gave an overview of the population changes in which Frederick County grew a lot in real numbers and percent change. Baltimore city lost population since the 1950's and in the most recent Census lost what it has previously but still lost 30,000 people. There are several counties with a majority minority: Montgomery County, Prince George's County (continues), Charles (now) and Baltimore City (continues). Secretary Hall noted that there is an interactive map on website for redistricting. Planning.maryland.gov (website)</p>		
Conclusions			
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline	

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR
REDISTRICTING

MICHELLE DAVIS, J.D., DEPARTMENT OF
LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

Summary Of Discussion	<p>The Department of Legislative Services is a staff agency for the General Assembly. They have 188 clients that can come and have a map made. Every client that comes to them is confidential unless they want to share it. The operation consists of her and Executive Director Karl Aro. This is his 4th time and her 2nd. They will staff the special session as well. The best way to think about redistricting consists of three components: law, data and technology. She noted that the law and data are not separate they are inter-connected. Ms. Davis spoke on some of Voting Rights Act that effect the Hispanic population. Section 203B in which County Board of Elections has to have voting material in different languages; Section 2 & Section 5 is the meat and potatoes of the Voting Rights Act. Section 5 Maryland is not covered. Section 2 outlaws minority vote dilution. The Commission can help by notifying the public about the redistricting law, spreading word about resources available such as LULAC (League of United Latino American Citizens), etc.</p>		
Conclusions			
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline	

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.